

# Getting Informed and Organized on Federal and State Higher Education Policy

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# Current Policy Atmosphere

## Federal-level

### First 100 Days of the New Administration and Beyond

- Much tighter enforcement of immigration laws
- Roll back previous “executive overreach”
- Federal Budget proposal with drastic cuts

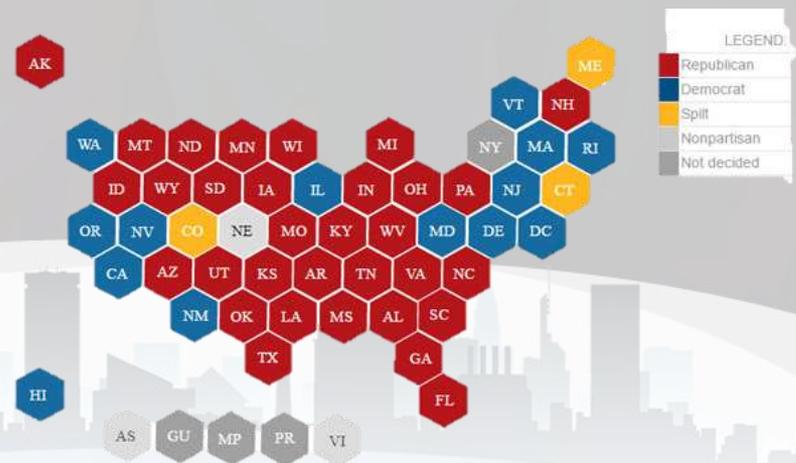
### Republican control of House, Senate

- Big emphasis on deregulation: teacher ed, gainful employment, FLSA, accountability
- HEA reauthorization is unlikely to happen this year
- Preference for state control of decisions
- AHCA passage pending

## State-level

### Conservative Power at a Peak

- Highest Republican control in nearly 100 years
- 25 states w/total GOP control vs 6 for Dems
- 2018 elections are pivotal for redistricting
- 36 governors up in 2018



# Affordability, Appropriations, and Budgets

## Federal-level

- FY17 Omnibus Appropriations Bill
  - Provides \$68.2 billion for ED (including \$1.3 billion rescission from Pell=net cut of \$1.1 billion under the 2016 level)
- FY18—released May 23
  - Unlikely to receive Congressional support, but targets most vulnerable:
    - Low-Income & First Generation
    - Student Borrowers

## State-level

- Many state budgets=lagging revenue numbers
- State-specific issues, but oil/gas revenues are down
- Little political support for enhancing revenue=budget cuts
- Public higher ed expecting sizable cuts in many states



# Free Speech/Culture

## Federal-level

- H. Res. 307
  - Introduced by Rep. Phil Roe M.D. (R-TN)
  - “It is my hope through passing this resolution we will send a strong message to college campuses across the country that restrictions on freedom of speech, thought and expression are inherently at odds with the rights guaranteed by our Constitution.”

## State-level

- Lots of discussions today re: free speech (Milo, Coulter, etc.)
- State bill to eliminate “free speech zones”, based on Goldwater proposal
  - Prohibit administration from disinviting speakers
  - Appear to confuse “right to free speech
- Codify academic freedom

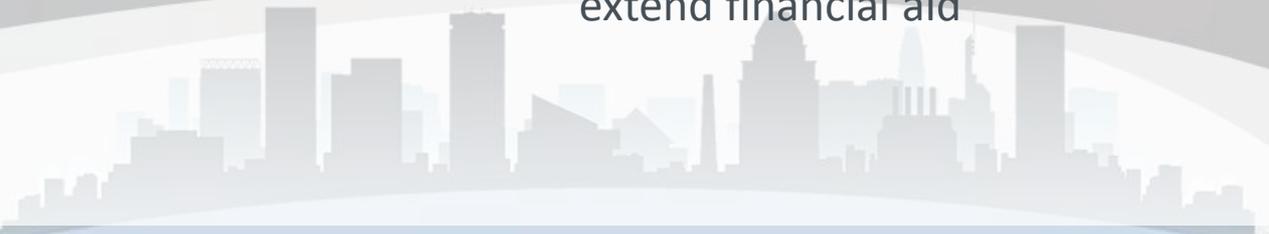
# Immigration/Undocumented Students

## Federal-level

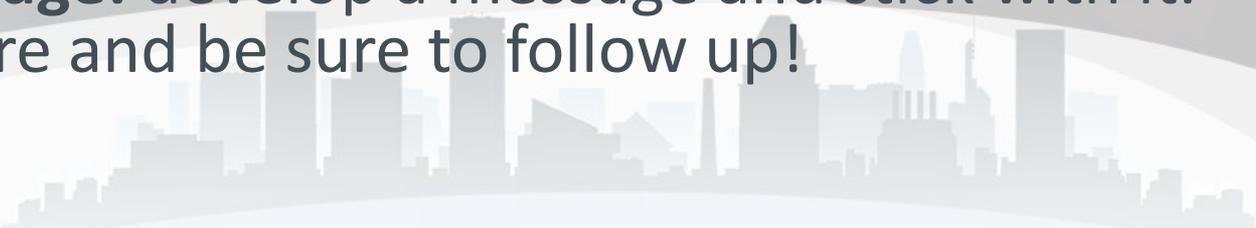
- Climate for international students
- Status of DACA and Travel Ban 2.0
- Visa policy to come

## State-level

- 7 states, 13 bills introduced cracking down on “sanctuary campus” (h/t NASPA)
  - Is “sanctuary” a check that can’t be cashed?
- More bills changing policy on in-state tuition for undocumented students
  - Approximate 18 states allow in-state tuition to immigrants, 6 extend financial aid



# Advocacy

- **Start with the basics:** What is the problem you are trying to solve? What are your solutions?
  - **Know the issues:** Before you engage with legislators, you need to know your issue from all angles. Understand and anticipate counterarguments. What are the legislators and the governor worried about, and how can you help them?
  - **Do your homework and find other interested parties:** Are there coalitions that can be engaged? Is your constituency activated?
  - **Stay on message:** develop a message and stick with it. Practice before and be sure to follow up!
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# Questions?



# Additional Resources

- **Govtrack** is a free online resource for tracking federal bills: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/>
- **Openstates** is a free online resource for tracking state legislation: <http://openstates.org/>
- The **Federal Register** provides updated information on changes in regulation policies: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>
- **AASCU** publishes daily and weekly policy news summary emails, including federal & state news: <http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/subscribe/>
- **NASPA RPI** posts weekly blogs: Monday policy update, Thursday topical: <http://www.naspa.org/rpi>

# Contact Us

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